



The Parish Messenger January 2026

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community rooted in God's love growing in Christ through reaching out and serving.

CHURCHES

Georgetown Lutheran
PO Box 86
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Office: 715.857.5580

Trinity Lutheran
2532-15th Street
Cumberland, WI 54829
715.822.3001

PASTOR

Diane Norstad
715-501-4129 (cell)
715-268-5706 (home)
revdianenorstad@yahoo.com

WORSHIP TIMES

Georgetown
Worship 10:30 AM

Trinity
Worship 8:45 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES

Georgetown
9:15 AM (Sept-May)

Trinity
10:00 AM (Sept-May)

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Parish Annual Meetings

Georgetown Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 18, 2026
11:45 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 25, 2026
9:35 AM



Please have all reports to parish office by
Monday, **January 5**, to allow parish secretary time to
put together annual reports.

JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Meeting/Activity
Sunday, January 4	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school – Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service - Georgetown
Monday, January 5	9:30 AM	Bible Study – Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study – Trinity
Wednesday, January 7	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class - Trinity
Sunday, January 11	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school – Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service – Georgetown
	11:30 AM	Council Meeting - Georgetown
Monday, January 12	9:30 AM	Bible Study – Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study – Trinity
	5:30 PM	Council Meeting - Trinity
Wednesday, January 14	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Confirmation class - Trinity
Sunday, January 18	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school – Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service – Georgetown
	11:45 AM	Annual Meeting - Georgetown
Monday, January 19	9:30 AM	Bible Study – Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Wednesday, January 21	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Confirmation class – Trinity - Trinity
Sunday, January 25	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school – Georgetown
	9:35 AM	Annual Meeting – Trinity
	10:00 AM	Sunday school – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service – Georgetown
Monday, January 26	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study – Trinity
Wednesday, January 28	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class - Trinity



January 3	Kent Jensen - GT
January 4	Roberta Hansen - GT
January 5	Duke Rouzer(*) – T
January 7	Kevin Klugow - GT
January 11	Pat Bergmann – T
	Jason Cummings – T
	Rick Sellent – T
January 12	Sue Schommer – T
January 22	Christine Wetzel – T
January 27	Kathy Grenquist – T
January 29	Jerry Denver - T

If we are missing your birthday and/or baptism (*) and you would like it included, please send to church email.

UPCOMING EVENTS

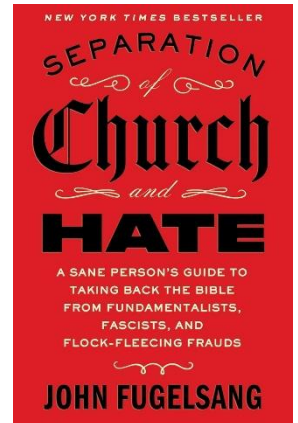


Crochet Group Starting Up Again!

3rd Sundays of the Month 4pm at Georgetown. All stitchers are welcome. Knit? Embroider? Weave? Bring it on. We'll gather for conversation and (hopefully) make some progress on our projects. Need to learn how to crochet? We can help with that, too.

Book Discussion Upcoming in February

Many of you have brought forward concerns about the amount of division and hatred in our world and I agree it is difficult. There is a book recently published on just that topic. That book is available on Amazon and through the library. Even if you don't get a chance to read it come and join in the conversation. It's sure to bring out many ideas. Watch the newsletter for the exact day and time.



Soup Bowl Cook-Off Fundraiser

Sunday, February 8, 2026

11:45 am – 1:00 pm

Georgetown Lutheran Church

Competitors: Provide and serve a crockpot of homemade soup for tasting. Please bring a copy of your recipe. Serving cups and trays are provided—no entry fee for competitors.

Entrance for Soup Tasters is \$10.

Bring a donation of canned soup or crackers for Loaves and Fishes and get in for \$8. Enjoy the soups made by the competitors, and bid on your favorites.

Extra Votes: \$1 each OR 1 bid per item donated

Winner will be announced at 1:00 PM.

Winner will have bragging rights for 1 year, and
50% of event proceeds to their favorite Non-Profit Organization.
50% goes to the Georgetown Lutheran Church General Fund

Soup Competitors: Sign up by contacting Gretchen Frendt at
frendt4@gmail.com or calling 715-475-9453.
Please have your designated Non-Profit ready at sign-up.

Faith not Worry



Dear Coworkers in Christ:

It's a new year!!!! I'd thought about asking you where you think the new year will lead you but the problem with that is that we often haven't a clue. Let's face it, God's in charge and not us. That's okay. God is faithful and will always see us through. I like the way that the hymn "Borning Cry," puts things in verse three:

In the Middle Ages of your life not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise.

God has been doing wonderful ministry here and will indeed complete what God's begun. Sadly, for us very human followers of God, we don't get the details of what God's going to be doing with and through us here in 2026. So, what do we do with that? I suggest that we greet the new year with open hearts and faith. We don't need to worry whether God will provide for us. We know that God will for that's what the scriptures tell us.

Luke 12:22-32 "He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. "

Wow, what a different perspective than the world around us! What a neat opportunity to look at the world around us through God's eyes and not our own.

This year we have much to do that will be both rewarding and often joyous. There is need all around us and we have the Gospel of Jesus Christ to share with others in both word and deed. We have all we need to continue to grow in both numbers and in spirit. We have all we need to make a positive difference in people's lives. We have all we need to be a loving, caring and supportive family and place of worship.

Georgetown and Trinity Lutheran Parish... I believe in you. Let's have a great year being church and sharing God's word.

Peace and Joy, Pastor Diane

NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILS

Trinity Council Meeting Minutes Monday, December 8, 2025, 5:30 PM

Present: Heidi W., Randy M., Dee W., Steve K., Judy K., Brenda R., Pastor Diane N

Absent: Robin D.

5:36pm meeting called to order

Pastor led in Prayer

Reports:

- Pastor - Confirmation is doing great.
- Treasurer - Motion to approve: Dee and 2nd by Steve. Approved

Old Business:

- Letter of no trespass - checking with courts
- Info Business Cards - GT has a new email. Larger Block print.
- No frill Roofing - quotes are coming in
- Budgeted money - NWSW, LPBC, HoN, 4Q Mission.
- Checks need to be sent New standpipe by the sanctuary needs a flag for Travis to see when he is plowing
- Audio Assistance System - Tim is gathering info and a crew
- Parish flooring is in. Ricky will pick up
- Update Constitution for Annual Meeting

New Business:

- Crisis Money - We do not have a dedicated line in our budget and we are unable to assist with housing at this time.
- Ed Dittbrenner funeral, Dec 20, visitation 10-11, funeral w/ meal to follow
- January 12th is the next council meeting. We will be walking through the budget and planning for the Annual Meeting on January 25.
- All reports for the Annual Meeting will be due by January 12th
- If you are interested in being on council, please let a current member know. We are looking for an Elder and a Trustee, as Heidi would like to do a 2nd term, but as a Deacon this time.

Meeting Adjourned Judy/Steve Approved

Lord's Prayer

Addendum from Nov. 11, 2025

- All Present but Judy K.
- Endowment Funds - Council discussed the disbursement of funds as suggested by the Endowment Committee. Motion was made by Robin D. and 2nd by Randy M. Approved and Passed. It will be brought to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- The Audio Assistance System will be purchased by the church under the guidance of Tim N. Motion by Robin/Randy, Approved and Passed

Georgetown Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Members Present: Sherry Doornink, Judy Gammel, Kim Doyle, Dennis Wiese, Treasurer Roberta Hansen, Pastor Diane Norstad

Members Absent: Tim Frendt, Bruce Peper, Keith Ward, Andrew Frendt, Nicole Norlund

The meeting was not called to order because there was not a Quorum.

Secretary's Report:

Treasurer's Report: Roberta Hansen passed out the Treasurer's Reports for November.

Pastor's Report: Pastor suggested that an increased amount should be budgeted next year in the event that we would have a new Pastor, but she did not want to have her salary increased if she was to remain. Pastor informed the Council that the Barker Family, who are currently living in the parsonage due to a fire in their home, have been cancelled by their insurance company. She recommended that we consider adjusting the monthly amount that they are paying the church for living in the parsonage on a temporary basis. She indicated that wood has been purchased for a bedroom floor at the parsonage and the tenant is working on installing it.

Other items of note:

- Diana needs reports by January 5 for the annual meeting.
- A contract was received for the snow plowing which Sherry signed.

At this point the meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. The meeting was rescheduled for Sunday, December 21, 2025.



Rescheduled Georgetown Council Meeting Minutes Sunday, December 21, 2025

Members Present: Sherry Doornink, Tim Frendt, Judy Gammel, Bruce Peper, Keith Ward, Andrew Frendt, Dennis Wiese, Treasurer Roberta Hansen.

Members Absent: Kim Doyle, Nicole Norlund, Pastor Diane Norstad

Old Business:

1. Building security update: Nothing at this time.
2. Parsonage update: There was discussion about the need for increased communication about the expenses for the parsonage and what improvements are being made. Dennis volunteered to be our liaison for the parsonage.
3. Furnace in the sanctuary: There was considerable discussion about how to proceed with replacing the furnace in the sanctuary. Teresa has a spare furnace that is not being used and Bruce will discuss with Bill the possibility of getting that installed. There was also discussion about doing some long-range planning for future heating needs.

New Business:

1. Building use requests: There will be a blood drive on January 13, 2026.
2. 2026 budget: Roberta brought a proposed 2026 budget for the Council to discuss and make suggestions. Each line item was discussed and assigned a suggested figure for 2026. Roberta will complete the proposed budget and bring it to the annual meeting for discussion and approval.
3. Items for the annual meeting agenda: Diana will need committee reports by January 5 for the annual meeting.
4. Nominating Committee report: There are three candidates for the three positions on the Council. Those names will be brought to the annual meeting to be voted on.

Open discussion:

1. The church secretary would like to update church member's addresses and contact phone number so the information is more accurate.
2. A new drivers has been ordered to the printer.
3. Information to be included in the monthly Parish Messenger needs to be submitted by the 25th of the month.

Next meeting: Sunday, January 11, 2026, immediately after church service.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel

What We Believe

Core Beliefs

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's story is both ancient and timely. It's a story of a powerful and patient God who has boundless love for all people of the world. It's a story that brings deep meaning, comfort and strength to a growing community of people who live in modern, often unsettling times. Learn more about our beliefs—and become a part of this faith story.*

VISION*

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.*

PURPOSE*

Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.

VALUES**

Our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

Forgiveness and reconciliation – We are reconciled to God by God's forgiving mercy. Forgiveness and reconciliation flow from what God has made us to be in Jesus Christ and what God is doing with us in the world. As a people of God, we embody forgiveness in speech, action and relationships, and our ministry in reconciliation is foundational.

Dignity, compassion and justice – Each person is created in God's image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people. Through proclamation of the gospel, through worship and as servants of God working for healing and justice in the world, we uphold and seek to protect the dignity and human rights of all people.

Inclusion and diversity – As Christ's church, we value the richness of God's creation and offer a radical welcome to all people, appreciating our common humanity and our differences. We are a church that does not view diversity as a barrier to unity. We recognize and will challenge dynamics of power and privilege that create barriers to participation and equity in this church and society – for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community.

Courage and openness to change – Because we trust in God's promise and understand faith to be a living, daring confidence in God's grace, we are emboldened to embrace learning and change in our spiritual and institutional journey as church. This means we are open to new ways and willing to take risks to discover God's plan for this church.

Faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts – As church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God's purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.

** From the ELCA Website: <https://www.elca.org/about/vision-and-purpose>



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin